

Warren County Board of Supervisors

Committee: Occupancy Tax Coordination

Date: February 11, 2013

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Kenny
 Merlino
 Bentley
 Dickinson
 Mason

Committee Members Absent:

Supervisors Conover
 Frasier

Others Present:

Kate Johnson, Director of Tourism
Leisa Grant, Principal Account Clerk, Tourism
Kevin Geraghty, Chairman of the Board
Paul Dusek, County Administrator
Martin Auffredou, County Attorney
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Frank Thomas, Budget Officer
Supervisors Montesi
 Strainer
 Taylor
 Wood
Michael Consuelo, Executive Director, Lake George
 Regional Chamber of Commerce & CVB
Luisa Craige-Sherman, Explore History LLC
Ron Walker, Green Mansions
Martha Walker, Green Mansions
Don Lehman, *The Post Star*
Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk

Mr. Kenny called the meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee to order at 10:00 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Commencing the Action Agenda, Mr. Kenny advised a funding application had been received from Wanaroma, Inc. for the Green Mansions Winter Festival, requesting \$6,970 for the event. He extended privilege of the floor to Ron Walker, of Green Mansions, to explain the event.

Mr. Walker stated the Green Mansions Winter Festival was scheduled for February 16-17, 2013 and would include an Adirondack Sno Cross Challenge, similar to the recent events held in the Village of Lake George. He noted they were contracting with Northeast Sno X and approximately sixty riders were signed up for the Challenge. He acknowledged this was the first year they had held such an event and it would also include bon fires, music and food. Mr. Walker pointed out two local schools were involved and would be hosting fundraisers during the event. He mentioned the Town of Warrensburg had committed funding to assist with the cost of advertising. He apprised the event would be held each year, depending on its' success and they were also attempting to incorporate two additional weekend events, making it a three to four week long event. Mr. Walker said they were hosting another sno cross event next weekend and a Vintage Day on March 2, 2013. He concluded they planned to continue to build off the first event, the Green Mansions Winter Festival, in the future.

Mr. Kenny remarked one problem he noticed with the application was that they were requesting \$6,970 and the Town of Warrensburg was committing \$3,000. He added one of the criteria for an application to be considered for funding was that the event must be 50% funded prior to the County's contribution, although it was important to assist new events to become established. Following review of the application, Mr. Kenny recommended funding in the amount of \$1,500 be awarded to Green Mansions for the Winter Festival. Mr. Merlino asserted the two recent sno cross events in Lake George were very popular and were well attended during a difficult time of year for area businesses. He suggested funding be awarded in the amount of \$4,000 and Mr. Bentley agreed with the recommendation. Mr. Mason said he would be inclined to award a little less than \$4,000.

Mr. Dickinson asked Mr. Walker if this event would be competing with the Lake George events and Mr. Walker responded in the negative, noting the sno cross events in Lake George ended last weekend. Mr. Dickinson suggested \$3,970 be awarded to the Green Mansions Winter Festival.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried by majority vote, with Mr. Kenny voting in opposition, to authorize an agreement with Wanaroma, Inc. for the Green Mansions Winter Festival in the amount of \$3,970; and to delete the \$11,500 awarded for Centurion Cycling New York, Inc, a business which no longer exists, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15, 2013 Board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Kenny advised the Old Business portion of the Agenda included review of the rules for use of occupancy tax funds to clarify appropriate uses. He questioned if the Committee members desired to change any of the rules and the Committee agreed no changes were needed.

As there was no further business to come before the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, on motion made by Mr. Dickinson and seconded by Mr. Bentley, Mr. Kenny adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk